>

Title: Statement regarding Inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, the Government has been receiving demands for inclusion of various languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution over the last several years. At present, the Eighth Schedule consists of 22 languages. These are (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogri, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Nepali, (15) Oriya, (16) Punjabi, (17) Sanskrit, (18) Santhali, (19) Sindhi, (20) Tamil, (21) Telugu and (22) Urdu.

In response to a Calling Attention Motion tabled by Shri Prabhunath Singh, MP, for 18th December, 2006 in the Lok Sabha regarding the need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution, a statement was made stating that action had been initiated to consider inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

It was observed during inter-ministerial consultations in the matter that presently, candidates appearing in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) are allowed to take the examination in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. UPSC has requested that the present link between the Eighth Schedule languages may be delinked from the Commission's scheme of examination keeping in view the problems faced by the Commission in conducting the examination in all the Eighth Schedule languages. In view of this, the Department of Personnel & Training has informed that the matter of inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution may be deferred till a decision is taken by the Government on the language issue with reference to the UPSC examinations.

The matter of inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule is, therefore, still under consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken after the issue of the language policy for the [MSOffice13]UPSC examinations is decided.

(Placed in Library, See No.LT 8704/08)